

MARY DAWS, ROBERT BOND, JAMES PATRIDGE, AND  
JOHN G. SMITH.

JANUARY 3, 1832.

Mr. IRWIN, from the Committee on Public Lands, made the following

### REPORT:

*The Committee on the Public Lands, being instructed to inquire into the expediency of granting the right of pre-emption to Mary Daws, Robert Bond, James Patridge, and John G. Smith, whose improvements were included in the reservations made by the treaty with the Florida Indians, on the 18th September, 1823, report:*

That an act was passed by Congress, on the 22d of April, 1826, which gave the right of pre-emption to every person, or the legal representatives of any person, who, being the head of a family, or twenty-one years of age, had, previous to the first of January, 1825, actually inhabited and cultivated a tract of land in the Territory of Florida, and had not removed from the said Territory.

From the evidence presented to the committee, it appears that the above named persons, previous to the 1st of January, 1825, did actually inhabit and cultivate lands in Florida, and for which they would have been entitled to pre-emptions, had not the lands, by them cultivated and inhabited, been included in the reservations made by the treaty with the Florida Indians.

To three individuals, whose improvements were included within the Indian reservations, pre-emption rights were granted for other lands, in the same district, by an act of Congress passed the 8th day of February, 1827.

It is the opinion of the committee, that the benefits derived by other settlers from the privilege of securing their own improvements, under the provisions of the above recited act, ought to be extended to the applicants; and, for that purpose, a bill is herewith reported to the House.

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